

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

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Abstract

A fatty acid ester of pentaerythritol, a pentaerythritol oligomer, or mixtures thereof, where the fatty acid has 6 to 22 carbon atoms, and the ester contains
5 less than 0.3% by weight C₁₇ fatty acid acyl groups and has a melting point of at least 30°C is provided. A process for the production of a C₁₆/C₁₈ fatty acid pentaerythritol ester including (A) providing about 1.8 to about 2.2 mol of a fatty acid mixture per mol of pentaerythritol; (B) esterifying component (A) at temperatures ranging from about 180°C to about 250°C in an inert gas
10 atmosphere in the absence of solvent to form a reaction mixture; (C) stirring the reaction mixture *in vacuo* until it has an acid value of less than 1 and an OH value of 145 to 158 is provided. A cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical composition including the above-described ester is also provided.

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